

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2608  
to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
By Kelsey Olson  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
February 6, 2024**

Good afternoon, Chairman Rahjes and members of the committee. My name is Kelsey Olson and I serve as the Deputy Secretary for the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2608.

The Kansas poultry industry is a highly valuable industry despite being smaller in comparison to other sectors of Kansas agriculture. Kansas is the home to some innovative and high-value egg laying and poultry genetics companies in addition to the commercial egg layers and gamebird producers and turkey growers. Poultry and egg production generates \$82.9 million annually and poultry processing has \$35.6 million in annual output according to IMPLAN, an economic tracking software.

Established in 1935, the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) improves poultry with the goal of eliminating poultry diseases. The NPIP is a voluntary state–federal cooperative testing and certification program for poultry breeding flocks, hatcheries, and dealers. The objective of the NPIP is to provide a cooperative state–federal program through which new technology can be applied effectively to the improvement of poultry and poultry products by establishing standards for the testing of poultry breeding stock, baby chicks, poults, and hatching eggs to protect against certain diseases.

The vast majority of U.S. states prohibit the entry of any poultry shipments except those designated pullorum-typhoid clean. In order to certify that their shipments are pullorum-typhoid free, businesses participate in the NPIP to ensure their products have tested negative for pullorum-typhoid before leaving their home state. Most U.S. trading partners importing poultry and products from the United States also require NPIP participation. Accredited veterinarians may be requested to inspect breeder flocks participating in the NPIP for compliance with the standards and to issue health certifications.

Since 1945, Kansas has participated in the NPIP. The Division of Animal Health within KDA serves as the official state agency for the administration and oversight of NPIP programs in Kansas. This includes interstate commerce, import/export, disease surveillance, testing, permitting, and disease response plan activities. These activities have been carried out by the Division of Animal Health veterinarians at no cost to the businesses and individuals requesting the service.

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Mike Beam, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

HB 2608 would enable KDA to assess a participant fee for any entity or person who wants to voluntarily participate in the NPIP program. This participation fee would not exceed \$50 annually. Additionally, anyone requesting testing or diagnostic services pertaining to NPIP would be assessed a visitation fee that would not exceed \$100 per location. KDA also works with outside certified individuals who may elect to become a certified tester for pullorum-typhoid. Once certified, an individual would be capable of performing poultry disease diagnostic services pursuant to the poultry disease control act. HB 2608 would allow the agency to assess a fee for certifying anyone wanting to become a certified tester.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2608. I'm happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.